

*ABSTRACT AMENDMENTS*

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A rangefinder apparatus of the present invention comprises: AF includes an autofocus data generating means generator for forming an image of light from an object at a distance to be subjected to determined by rangefinding onto a pair of line sensors each including a plurality of. Each line sensor includes light-receiving detecting elements, and generating generates AF data for computing a correlation value according to signals obtained from produced by the light-receiving detecting elements; an AF data acquiring means acquirer for acquiring the AF data from a pair of employed sensor areas used for rangefinding in, within the pair of line sensors; A correlation value computing means for determining computer determines a pair of window areas for selecting the AF data to be used for computing the correlation value within the pair of employed sensor areas, and successively computing computes correlation values while shifting the pair of window areas; interpolated-correlation extreme value computing means an interpolater for detecting a correlation extreme value(s) values among the correlation values computed by the correlation value computing means computer, and interpolating thus-detected the correlation extreme value(s) so as values detected to compute an interpolated correlation extreme value(s); values. A highest correlation value detecting means for detecting detector detects, as a highest correlation value, the interpolated correlation extreme value exhibiting the highest correlation among the interpolated correlation extreme value(s); values. A shift amount computing means for computing a computer computes the shift amount of the window areas yielding the highest correlation value; and an object distance calculating means for calculating a calculator calculates distance to the object according to the shift amount computed by the shift amount computing means. Further, the rangefinder apparatus checks the reliability of correlation values and correlation extreme values, and determines whether computing of interpolation should be carried out or not according to the results of the checks.